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NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 6, 2017

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Page 20: Photo by Kaitlin Randolph, Page 14: Photo by Sophia Hantzes, Page 27: Photo courtesy of Brand g Vacations, Page 28: Photo courtesy of St. Croix Chocolate Company.

ON THE COVER

The holiday season is soon to be here, so we have an issue full of gifts and experiences for you and yours.
Photo from the *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* at the Children's Theatre Company by Kaitlin Randloph

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LAVENDER®

Volume 23, Issue 587 • November 22-December 6, 2017

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Printer of Lavender
Schumann Printers, Inc.
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FROM THE EDITOR | BY ANDY LIEN

Silver & Gold

We've got only a few of issues left in 2017: this Holiday Gift Guide, the Year End Issue with Lavender Community Awards, and the Pride Pages Directory. Two with editorial content and then the last one is full of resources for this community. So, I'm taking the time to shine a little light on Lavender Media as we just won a few more Minnesota Magazine and Publishing Association (MMPA) Excellence Awards for our trophy case and that is something that never gets old.

For the last year, we proudly wore the crown of Magazine of the Year, having earned the title after winning a whole lot of these awards. This year, we took it easy and only went for a handful of them and came out with three winners: an article, a spread design, and a feature design. Not bad, folks. Not bad.

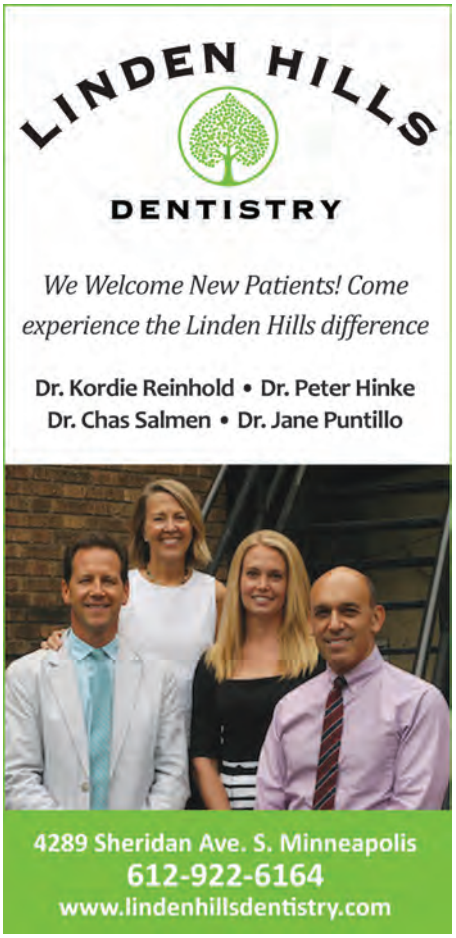
So, without further ado, I'd like to congratulate my colleagues, Hubert Bonnet and Mike Hnida, who do great design, layout, and photography for us and who are moving into doing more video production. They nabbed a silver and a gold. And I'd also like to congratulate our former assistant managing editor, Shane Lueck, for writing a piece worthy of a gold, that is a very important and lasting piece of research and history for this community.

With pride and with thanks, Andy ■

Spread Design Gold–Winter What to Do

Feature Design Silver–Winter Fashion: Sweater Weather, Photography by Taylor Hall O'Brien and Produced by John Mark

Feature Article Gold–The Sexual Exploitation of Our Youth



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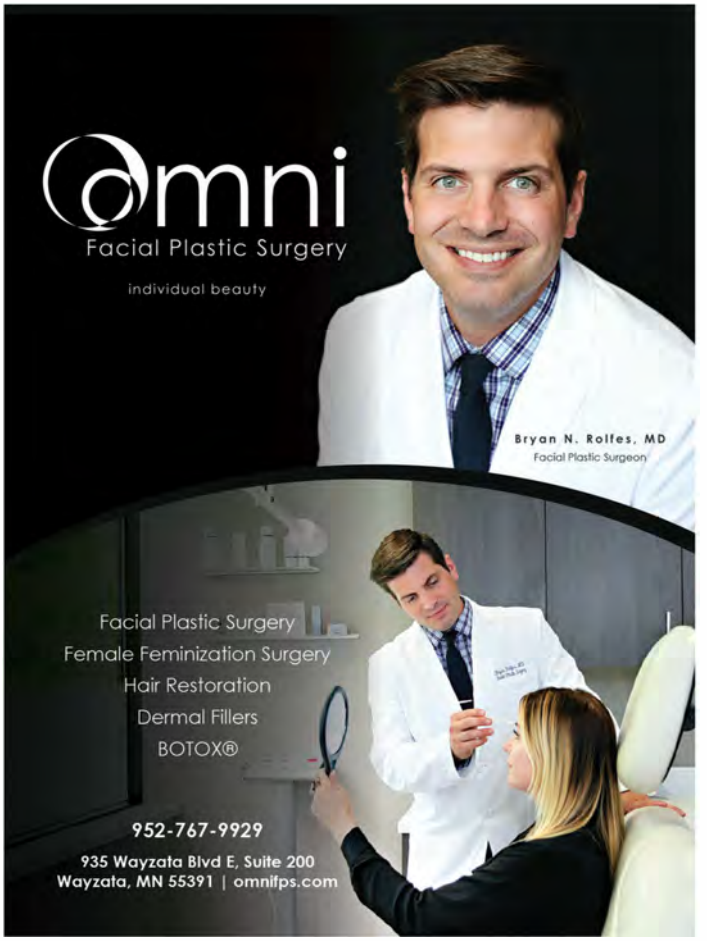
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A WORD IN EDGEWISE | BY E.B. BOATNER

Thar's Gold in Them Thar Stars

It took a hundred years for technology to prove Einstein's prediction of the existence of magnetic waves. Now, centuries after alchemists labored to create gold from base metals, after scientists determined that gold itself was an element, we find, after a lag of 130 million light years, that the alchemists were on to something.

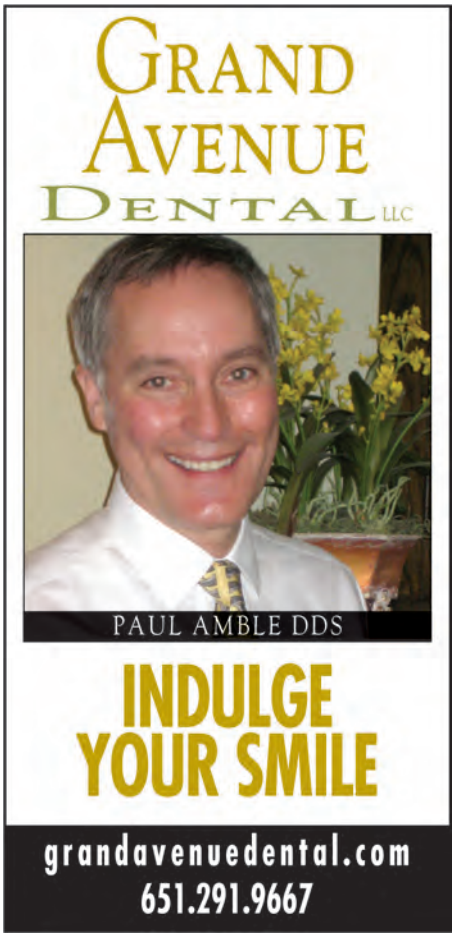
Right in their concept, perhaps, but wide of the mark on what gold-making required, only recently has the galactic scope of the process been observed. The Philosopher's Stone doesn't exist, but now we have LIGO.

Like gravitational waves, newly minted gold is spawned during the collision of two neutron stars, which event was detected by LIGO, the giant Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory that recorded the predicted existence of magnetic waves in 2016. In fact, according to The Atlantic Magazine, this squeezing of the "fabric of the universe" produced 10,000 Earth-masses of various precious heavy elements in all, adding that a teaspoon of neutron star would weigh some ten million tons.

Consider the 130 million light-years that flash took to reach Terra. Dinosaurs perished 65,000,000 ordinary years ago; that figure, expressed as a percentage of just one light-year (5.9 trillion miles) is seen to be a fly-speck .001101694%. While light-years are a measure of distance, the numbers do show the infinitesimal distance light would travel between illuminating the dinos' death throes and the Astros celebrating this year's World Series.

As that flash from galaxy NGC 4993 spread, humans emerged, learned to walk upright, use fire and tools, and kill one another in incrementally ingenious and cataclysmic ways. Young Einstein jotted down "E=MC2" and predicted the existence of gravitational waves. Another fractional moment, and LIGO registered their existence, and now our knowledge of how gold is born.

Here on our small planet, circling our average sun, we scramble to make sense of the universe and our fellow man, factions claiming to have the answer eager to exterminate "others." We, like the dinos, may be obliterated in a flash, or we may orchestrate our own dissolution. Earth will continue to spin around old Sol, new life forms will evolve to have their moment in the sun. The benign, indifferent universe doesn't care. It's seen bigger, brighter, better—and it can always make more gold. ■



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LAVENDER'S SCORE THURSDAY AT THE OFFICE

OCTOBER 19, 2017

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GLBT HOST HOME PROGRAM 20TH ANNIVERSARY

OCTOBER 18, 2017

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OUR LAVENDER

LAVENDER LENS | PHOTOS BY SOPHIA HANTZES

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CONVERSATION WITH WNBA CHAMPIONSHIP COACH CHERYL REEVE AT WOMAN'S CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

OCTOBER 26, 2017

Photo by Sophia Hantzes

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World AIDS Day Events

INTERFAITH SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE
Thursday, November 30
March: 7:15pm
Service: 7:30pm
United Methodist Church
1514 Englewood Ave. • St. Paul
www.hamlinechurch.org

WORLD AIDS DAY ANNUAL BREAKFAST
Presented by
Friday, December 1
7:30am–10am
All God's Children Metropolitan Community Church
3100 Park Ave. S. • Minneapolis
Search "World AIDS Day Annual Breakfast" on Facebook

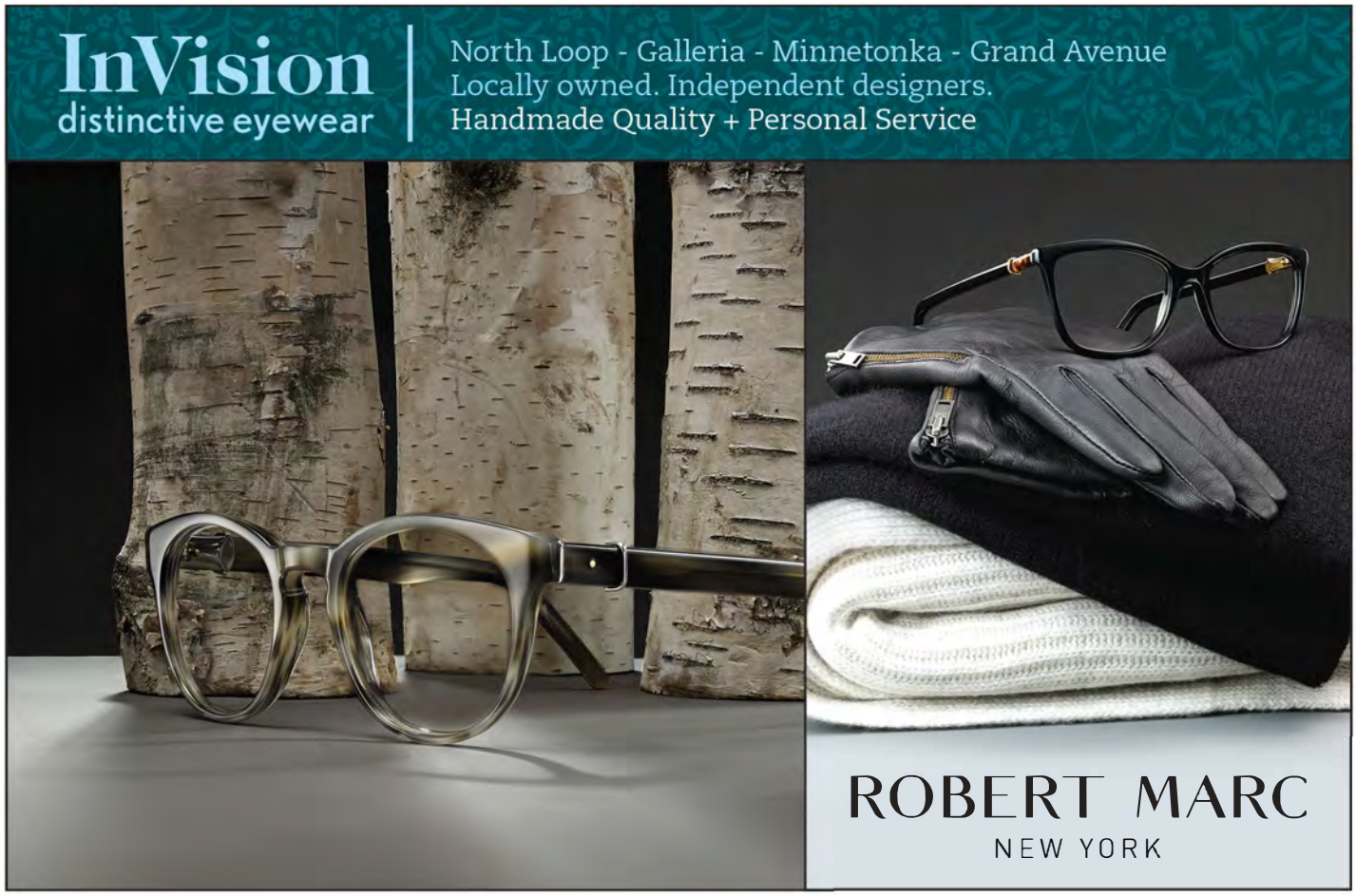
OPEN ARMS OF MINNESOTA WORLD AIDS DAY OPEN HOUSE
Friday, December 1
9am–1pm
Open Arms of Minnesota
2500 Bloomington Ave. • Minneapolis
www.openarmsmn.org

RED RIBBON RIDE WORLD AIDS DAY CELEBRATION
Friday, December 1
5pm–8pm
Crooked Pin Ale House
501 Washington Ave. S. • Minneapolis
www.redribbonride.org

WRAP THE WORLD IN WARMTH COAT DRIVE
Benefitting Clare Housing
December 1–8
Target
1650 New Brighton Blvd. • Minneapolis
http://go.clarehousing.org/wraptheworld

WORLD AIDS DAY AT THE FIRM
Saturday, December 2
11am–Noon
The Firm
1010 N. 2nd Ave. • Minneapolis
Search "World AIDS Day at The Firm" on Facebook

WORLD AIDS DAY 2-HOUR INDOOR CYCLE RIDE
Saturday, December 2
Noon–2pm
YWCA Uptown
2808 Hennepin Ave. • Minneapolis
www.ywcampls.org/events/all_events/world_aids_day_2_hour_indoor_cycle_ride/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A well-balanced diet, healthy weight and physical activity are key to managing and preventing diabetes. Carbohydrate (carb) intake is driven by the sugars and starches you eat, and high blood sugar levels can lead to diabetes. Excess carbs can cause blood sugar levels to rise too high. People with diabetes and pre-diabetes need to avoid this by managing their carb intake.

It's worth noting that all carbs are not created equal. Carbs found in refined grain products like white bread, white rice and fruit juices are digested quickly into blood sugar while carbs found in fresh fruits and whole grains are digested slowly due to their high fiber content. The right amount of carbs depend on your weight, desired goal weight, activity level and how your blood sugar responds to carbs.

North Memorial Health is a pioneer in diabetes education offering comprehensive, personalized guidance from a team of physicians, dietitians and nurses. To learn more about diabetes, visit Better Health News at northmemorial.com.

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Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus

[by John Townsend]

Holiday Entertainment

When we think of finding a gift for someone it tends to be a tangible object that can be felt and/or used. However, there are other gifts that create memories and visceral experiences that are just as significant. That's why performances and the experience of encountering art make for great gifts as well. Here are some suggestions.

1. BLITHE SPIRIT

Gay master playwright Noel Coward looms as the last century's supreme voice of high sophistication, urbane wit, and camp. His comedic imagination is in full throttle with one the most popular London plays of the Blitz era of World War II. Moreover, it has since become one of the most popular stage comedies ever and is produced prolifically around the world. In case you don't know already, *Blithe Spirit* has what is perhaps theater's wackiest seance. Celebrated actress Sally Wingert plays the dotty Madame Arcati. This clairvoyant character's mystical powers and reverence for the supernatural are the source of wild and unexpected humor!

Through Jan. 14
Guthrie Theater, 818 S 2nd St., Minneapolis
612-377-2224
www.guthrietheater.org

2. A CHRISTMAS CAROL

The Charles Dickens book is transformed into a deep, dark, and uplifting stage play that has long been the region's go-to holiday performance at the nation's flagship regional theater. The outstanding Nathaniel Fuller returns in the role of miserly Ebenezer Scrooge. When confronted by three ghosts about his cruel attitudes and callousness he wrestles with his conscience and his obsessive compulsion to gain a profit.

Artistic Director Joseph Haj says, *"A Christmas Carol* makes a special time of year for our staff, for families throughout the region, and for first-time theatregoers experiencing Dickens's classic on our stage. It warms our hearts to see the impact this tradition has had on our community for more than four decades and we look forward to rediscovering this familiar story for another season."

Through Dec. 30
Guthrie Theatre, 818 S 2nd St., Minneapolis
612-377-2224
www.guthrietheatre.org

3. CLOTH

Aamera Siddiqui muses on ways in which clothing can dictate the level of constraint or freedom that women experience. Personal memories and what she was wearing when they took place are melded with what was learned from discussion groups, interviews, and workshops on topics regarding clothing, dress codes, and Islam. Directed by Suzy Messerole for Exposed Brick Theatre.

Dec. 7-10
Southern Theater, 1420 Washington Ave. Minneapolis
612-340-0155
www.southerntheatre.org

4. A DOLL'S HOUSE

What could be better made to order for Henrik Ibsen's landmark drama of domestic turmoil in 19th century Norway than St. Paul's historic 19th century James J. Hill House? The Orchard Theater Collective offers an on-site production adapted and directed by Craig Johnson. The Hill mansion's third floor schoolroom will be the epicenter of the story. Nora Helmer is a protagonist vividly defined by her traditional role as a wife to a man who has no capacity to understand her. Orchard is driven to find new ways to tell old stories.

Dec. 1-10
James J. Hill House
240 Summit Ave., St. Paul
800-838-3006
www.orchardtheatercollective.org

5. HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS

The Dr. Seuss classic was actually commissioned, developed, and premiered at CTC and went on to play on Broadway. It is now also a holiday tradition at San Diego's Old Globe. Artistic Director Peter Brosius comments that the Dr. Seuss stories "motivate us to be our best selves, to be generous, to be tolerant, and to celebrate the hugeness of the human heart."

Through Jan. 7
Children's Theatre
2400 3rd Ave. S, Minneapolis
612-874-0400
www.childrenstheatre.org

6. KHEPHRA: A HIP HOP HOLIDAY STORY

Acclaimed performer Sha Cage draws from the name of an ancient Egyptian god for a story of a young African girl who moves to America. Various elements converge to tell her story: puppetry, African music and dance, hip hop, spoken word, poetry, verse, and ritual. Open Eye Figure Theatre has become the region's premiere theater company for puppetry. The work you'll see there is lyrical and fuels the creative imagination.

Nov. 30-Dec. 9
Open Eye Figure Theatre, 506 E 24th St. Minneapolis
612-874-6338
www.openeyetheatre.org

How the Grinch Stole Christmas! Photo by Kaitlin Randolph

Khephera: A Hip Hop Holiday Story. Photo by Stan Demidorff

CLOTH. Photo courtesy of Galen Higgins

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[by John Townsend]

Holiday Entertainment

7. HERSCHEL AND THE HANNUKAH GOBLINS

Watch out! Goblins have been preventing the spirit of Hannukah from entering a village. So the denizens have enlisted a good man to spend eight nights in an old synagogue in order to remedy the problem. A great opportunity to see some the best puppet artistry in the Twin Cities performing arts scene; not to mention, Minnesota Jewish Theatre does excellent work consistently.

Dec. 7-19
Highland Park Community Center
1978 Ford Parkway, St. Paul
651-647-4315
www.mnjewishtheatre.org

8. NUTCRACKER (NOT SO) SUITE

Ballet of the Dolls and James Sewell Ballet revive the joyously camp spoof of *The Nutcracker*, which we know as the traditional Christmas ballet. Surely you recall the Sugar Plum Fairy. This spoof was spirited forth by the madcap wizardry of choreographer Myron Johnson a generation ago. The wizard is back with a new generation that grooves with the moves and style of whats become a contemporary dance classic in it own right. In addition, this year, Bradley Greenwald plays Mama Flo!

Dec. 15.-30
Cowles Center, 528 Hennepin Ave.
Minneapolis
612-206-3600
www.thecowlescenter.org

9. THE POLARIZING EXPRESS: DYSFUNCTION JUNCTION

The region's premiere comedy theatre company regularly produces a sparkling holiday show that touches on current social, gender, and political issues. There is no group around that works so seamlessly like clockwork as these madcap masters of comedy. In a time when too many unskilled snarks try to pass themselves off as professional comics, the Brave New Workshop shows us true professionalism that makes *Saturday Night Live* look amateur. They skewer both ends of the political spectrum, fearless of potential fallout. And this year they go after the ever-changing shipping times of Amazon, political divisions at the holiday dinner table, and of course, their uniquely imaginative version of "The Twelve Days of Christmas." If you've never seen their version, you don't know what you're missing.

Through Jan. 27
Brave New Workshop, 824 Hennepin Ave.
Minneapolis
612-332-6620
www.bravenewworkshop.com

10. SEEKING A TRUTH: GERMAN ART OF THE 1920S AND THE 1930S & NEW PICTURES: OMER FAST: APPENDIX

The best comprehensive art museum between Chicago and the west coast is offering a searing exhibit that makes us present to that tumultuous time in Germany between their humiliating defeat in World War I and their demonic resurgence to power under the Nazi movement led by Adolf Hitler. This is a sterling opportunity to see examples of work from the Weimar period, as well as the Bauhaus, New Objectivity, and Dada movements. This time between the wars is contrasted with pictures by living Israeli artist, Omer Fast, who is based in Berlin. His work appears alongside that of August Sander (1876-1964), who many regard as Germany's greatest 20th century photographer. The past is always present.

Ongoing
Minneapolis Institute of Art, 2400 3rd Ave. S
Minneapolis
612-870-3000
www.artsmia.org

11. TOM OF FINLAND

Here is a biographical movie that truly captures the spirit of gay liberation in the mid-20th century. The stylized homoerotic illustrations by Tom of Finland have influenced gay culture, gay subcultures, and gay sex fantasies over the decades since World War II. His actual name was Touko Laaksonen and he once stated, "I almost never draw a completely naked man. To me, a fully dressed man is more erotic than a naked man. A naked man is, of course, beautiful, but dress him in black leather or a uniform—ah, then he is more than beautiful, he is sexy!"

Opens Dec. 8
Lagoon Cinema, 1320 Lagoon Ave.
Minneapolis
612-823-3020
www.landmarktheatres.com

12. AND THEN THERE WERE NONE

The most popular woman playwright ever is consistently staged at a high standard by TRP. Brian Joyce has directed the eerie thriller about 10 strangers in an island mansion. A macabre nursery rhyme, an unseen host, and mysterious murder spur on this juicy crowd-pleaser. And one that will satisfy people of all backgrounds and interests. That's part of the Christie magic. Who will be next? And just exactly who has masterminded this sordid affair? Hmmmm…

Through Dec. 17
Theatre in the Round, 245 Cedar Ave.
Minneapolis
612-333-3010
www.theatreintheround.org

13. 88: HACHI HACHI

The taiko company, Unit Souzou, is tapping into intricate emotions inherent to a committed marriage. Michelle Fuji and Toru Watanabe draw from their own marital experience of 13 years. An inspired performance idea perfect for the holiday season. A time to reconnect with family and friends. Taiko, dance, and theatre blend with lineage, intimacy, and exploring the nature of relationships.

Dec. 9, 10
Park Square's Boss Stage
20 W 7th Pl., St. Paul
651-291-7005
www.taikoartsmidwest.org

Seeking a Truth. Photo courtesy of Minneapolis Institute of Art

Nutcracker (not so) Suite. Photo by Dan Norman

And Then They Were None. Photo by Bob Suh

Tom of Finland. Photo by Josef Persson, courtesy of Kino Lorber

88: Hachi Hachi. Photo by Joni Photo

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DEC 8–JAN 7

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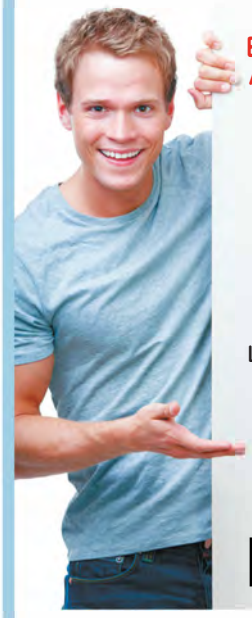

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What is TRUVADA for PrEP?

TRUVADA for PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) is a prescription medicine that is used together with safer sex practices to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This use is only for HIV-negative adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1. To help determine your risk of getting HIV-1, talk openly with your healthcare provider about your sexual health.

Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to prevent getting HIV. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA for PrEP?

Before taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

- **You must be HIV-negative before you start taking TRUVADA for PrEP.** You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1. Do not take TRUVADA to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-negative.
- **Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected.** If you have flu-like symptoms, you could have recently become infected with HIV-1. Tell your healthcare provider if you had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting or at any time while taking TRUVADA for PrEP. Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin.

While taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

- **You must continue to use safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.**
- **You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP:**
  - Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months.
  - If you think you were exposed to HIV-1, tell your healthcare provider right away.
- **To further help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1:**
  - Know your HIV status and the HIV status of your partners.
  - Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV to infect you.
  - Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior, such as having fewer sex partners.
  - Do not miss any doses of TRUVADA. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects:

- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** TRUVADA is not approved to treat HBV. If you have HBV and stop taking TRUVADA, your HBV may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health.

Who should not take TRUVADA for PrEP?

Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

- **Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status.** If you are HIV-1 positive, you need to take other medicines with TRUVADA to treat HIV-1. TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.
- **Also take** certain medicines to treat hepatitis B infection.

What are the other possible side effects of TRUVADA for PrEP?

Serious side effects of TRUVADA may also include:

- **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider may do blood tests to check your kidneys before and during treatment with TRUVADA. If you develop kidney problems, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking TRUVADA.
- **Too much lactic acid in your blood** (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- **Severe liver problems,** which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- **Bone problems,** including bone pain, softening, or thinning, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.

Common side effects in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP are stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or do not go away.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA for PrEP?

- **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis.
- **If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.** It is not known if TRUVADA can harm your unborn baby. If you become pregnant while taking TRUVADA for PrEP, talk to your healthcare provider to decide if you should keep taking TRUVADA.
- **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. If you become HIV-positive, HIV can be passed to the baby in breast milk.
- **All the medicines you take,** including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. TRUVADA may interact with other medicines. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.
- **If you take certain other medicines** with TRUVADA, your healthcare provider may need to check you more often or change your dose. These medicines include certain medicines to treat hepatitis C (HCV) infection.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.FDA.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see Important Facts about TRUVADA for PrEP including important warnings on the following page.

We're open, not unprepared.

We know who we are. And we make choices that fit our lives.

TRUVADA for PrEP™ is a once-daily prescription medicine that can help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 when taken every day and used together with safer sex practices.

- TRUVADA for PrEP is only for adults who are at high risk of getting HIV through sex.
- You must be HIV-negative before you start taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

Ask your doctor about your risk of getting HIV-1 infection and if TRUVADA for PrEP may be right for you.

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Learn more at **truvada.com**

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emtricitabine 200 mg / tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300 mg tablets
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(tru-VAH-dah)

IMPORTANT FACTS

This is only a brief summary of important information about taking TRUVADA for PrEP™ (pre-exposure prophylaxis) to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection. This does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your medicine.

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Before starting TRUVADA for PrEP:

- **You must be HIV-1 negative.** You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1. Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-1 negative.
- **Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected.** Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include flu-like symptoms, tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin. Tell your healthcare provider if you have had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting TRUVADA for PrEP.

While taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

- **You must continue to use safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.**
- **You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.** Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months while taking TRUVADA for PrEP. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you think you were exposed to HIV-1 or have a flu-like illness while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.
- **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.
- See the "How To Further Reduce Your Risk" section for more information.

TRUVADA may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** TRUVADA is not approved to treat HBV. If you have HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking TRUVADA. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

TRUVADA for PrEP is a prescription medicine used together with safer sex practices to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This use is only for HIV-negative adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1.

- To help determine your risk of getting HIV-1, talk openly with your healthcare provider about your sexual health.

Do NOT take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

- **Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status.**
- Take certain medicines to treat hepatitis B infection.

HOW TO TAKE TRUVADA FOR PrEP

- **Take 1 tablet once a day, every day**, not just when you think you have been exposed to HIV-1.
- Do not miss any doses. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- Use TRUVADA for PrEP together with condoms and safer sex practices.
- Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months. You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF TRUVADA FOR PrEP

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the "Most Important Information About TRUVADA for PrEP" section.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
- Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- Severe liver problems, which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- Bone problems.

Common side effects in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP include stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight.

These are not all the possible side effects of TRUVADA. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with TRUVADA for PrEP.

BEFORE TAKING TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis.
- Have any other medical conditions.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. If you become HIV-positive, HIV can pass to the baby in breast milk.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with TRUVADA for PrEP.

HOW TO FURTHER REDUCE YOUR RISK

- Know your HIV status and the HIV status of your partners.
- Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV to infect you.
- Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior, such as having fewer sex partners.
- Do not share needles or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them.

GET MORE INFORMATION

- This is only a brief summary of important information about TRUVADA for PrEP. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more, including how to prevent HIV infection.
- Go to start.truvada.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit start.truvada.com for program information.

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Version date: April 2017

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[by Eric Poole]

Travel

We've all been there.

The shake weights. The toilet seat with a nightlight. The t-shirt that says, "I'm not a gynecologist, but I'll take a look."

Coming up with innovative Christmas presents when you've been with your partner for a while can be a challenge akin to turning down a makeout session with Chris Hemsworth. So, I'd like to suggest a gift that's a little more costly, but will never, ever end up buried at the bottom of a sack headed for the local gay thrift store.

Travel.

An all-gay river cruise or land tour can give you and your partner something to look forward to for months. It can re-kindle your relationship. And you get to bask in your incredible generosity while knowing that this gift benefits you just as much as it does them.

How about a cruise through the Adriatic Sea in Europe?

Or down the romantic Danube?

Or on the exotic Amazon, with a trek to Machu Picchu?

When I give my husband the gift of a trip, I combine his birthday, our anniversary and Christmas, so I'm knocking out three holidays with one present. I call it "gift amortization." (Just not to his face.)

Then, each holiday, I give him some little thing for the trip: a travel guide, a travel power strip, a sleep mask so he doesn't have to see the "comfy" clothes I put on for overnight flights. (I call that one the relationship saver.)

Travel gives you incredible memories. And photos you can you can use as screensavers to invoke envy in perfect strangers. And traveling with an all-gay group gives you the opportunity to make new friends and have free places to stay around the world—a big bonus when those friends live in cities where hotel prices are equivalent to a Bentley payment.

This Christmas, I'm giving my husband a summer river cruise down the Rhine in Europe, from Amsterdam to Prague. It's a gay cruise, of course, so everyone on the boat will be a 'mo. The great thing about river cruises is that the group is small —river ships generally hold 200 or less—so you can really get to know people.

And since river cruise ships essentially dock right downtown, you walk off the ship and you're right in the middle of the city. None of the two-hour bus ride BS you encounter on ocean cruises, where you dock in some industrial port a hundred miles from nowhere.

Giving a trip isn't, of course, in everyone's budget. But if you want to win brownie points, or you have a special birthday or anniversary coming up, consider my "amortization" concept. Your partner might even turn a blind eye to those dinosaur slippers you insist on wearing on the plane.

Eric Poole is Director of Marketing for Brand g Vacations, the leader in all-LGBT river cruises and land tours.

Corfu, Greece. Photo courtesy of Brand g Vacations.

Many river cruises visiting Budapest do a night cruise past the incredible riverfront palaces. Photo courtesy of Brand g Vacations.

[by Andy Lien]

Food & Fun

When I'm shopping for gifts, I use the lists that have been supplied because I come from a very efficient people. We tell you want we want, we get things for each other that we need, and we're pretty darned predictable. Except for the stuffers. I stuff stockings and nooks and crannies with delightful little things that remind me of my beloveds. Decor? Yes. Food? Yes. Fun games and toys? Absolutely. If it reminds me of you, I want you to have it.

1. SONGVERSATIONS
Songversations is the new music-listening card game created by singer/songwriter Eric Hutchinson. Each of the 50 record-shaped cards in this conversation deck is printed with a music-themed question on each side.
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www.electricfetus.com

2. HANDS
These Hands by Noir are a smart addition to your decor. Need a little direction? Need a helping hand? These spiffy pieces of art can also do some mean paperweighting or book-ending.
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Habitation Furnishings + Design
www.habitationdesign.com

3. ASSORTED HOT DRINKING CHOCOLATES FROM CHOCOLAT MODERNE
What could be better on a cold Minnesota night in front of the fire with that certain someone than something warm and delicious to drink?!?!!? With names like these, how can you go wrong?
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Max's
www.stylebymax.com

4. UNICORN TIN TEA SET
Unicorns and rainbows on this 15-piece tin tea set make tea time fun for any age. Includes service for four.
$20.99
Electric Fetus
www.electricfetus.com

5. ADVENT CALENDAR
One of my favorite chocolate artists in the state is Robyn Dochterman who owns St. Croix Chocolate Company with her wife, Deidre Pope. Award-winning and delicious, the chocolates are even found in the most lovely shop in Marine on St. Croix, seen here on this Advent Calendar that they're selling this year. Get your orders in right away to be able to get the calendar in time for Advent (starts Dec. 1) or pick them up yourself (I suggest making the trip).
$58.99
St. Croix Chocolate Company
www.stcroixchocolateco.com/buy/advent-calendar

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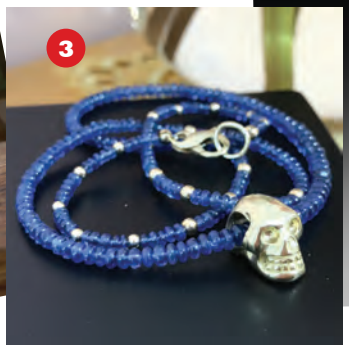
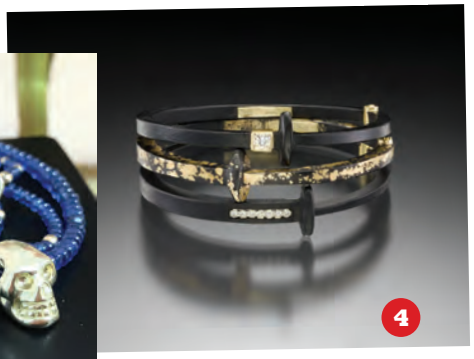
[by Andy Lien]

Jewelry

I'm one of those people who is allergic to metal, particularly costume jewelry, so when I get the precious stuff for myself or as a gift, it automatically becomes something I treasure. I cherish my jewelry and I find it to be an incredibly intimate gift to give and receive. Here are some of our local artisans and stores offering us some exquisite ideas for this holiday season.





1. TORUS TINY DIAMOND BRACELET

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Karin Jacobson Jewelry Design

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2. METEORITE INTERCHANGEABLE BRACELET

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Jewelry by Johan

www.jewelrybyjohan.com

3. SAPPHIRE AND GOLD SKULL NECKLACE

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www.newgild.com

4. NAIL BRACELETS BY PAT FLYNN

Pat Flynn's iconic nail bracelets contrast the elegance of diamonds and fused 22K yellow gold against textural, blackened steel Each bracelet is hand-forged from cut nails. Wear one or stack them up!

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Max's

www.stylebymax.com

5. TACORI'S IVY LANE PAVE DIAMOND JEWELRY

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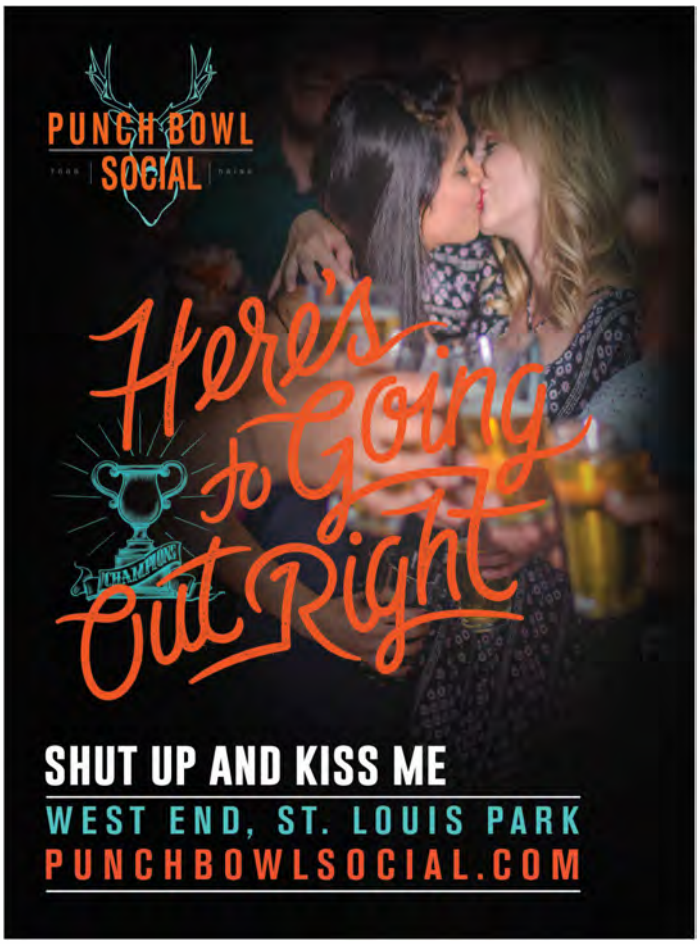

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[by Andy Lien]

Jewelry

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Stephen Vincent Jewelry Boutique
www.svstudio.com

7. DINOSAUR BONE WRIST WATCH
Featuring fossilized dinosaur gembone, this time piece will make a surprising gift for those looking to dress up their wrist with a little something different.
$199
Jewelry by Johan
www.jewelrybyjohan.com

8. DOUBLE HYACINTH ORIGAMI RING WITH DIAMONDS
The Double Hyacinth Origami Ring is hand-fabricated in oxidized silver with four .03ct recycled diamonds set in 18K yellow gold.
$730
Karin Jacobson Jewelry Design
www.karinjacobson.com

9. METEORITE EARRINGS
Iron meteorites are derived from the cores of ancient planets destroyed nearly 4.5 billion years ago by catastrophic impact events during the formation of our solar system. Some feature "Widmanstätten patterns," which make for extremely cool art opportunities. These meteorite pieces have made their way to us to tell their story, lovingly hand set in sterling silver with a rhodium plating to ensure maximum visibility of the pattern. Geeks unite!
$350, one of a kind
New Gild Jewelers
www.newgild.com

10. ECLIPSE STACKER RINGS
Hand-fabricated sterling silver and silver noir stacking bands. Plain or scattered with 22K gold, GSI1 diamonds. Topped with rustic diamonds and other precious gems set in 18K gold bezels. Comes in a variety of widths. Available in white or noir silver.
Stephen Vincent Jewelry Boutique
$350-$1500
www.svstudio.com

11. TACORI'S CRESCENT COVE DIAMOND JEWELRY
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Arthur's Jewelers
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[by Mike Marcotte]

'Wood' You Look at That

1. MINNEAPOLIS SKYLINE BY UPTOWN WOODWORKS

When University of St. Thomas grad Garrett and Gustavus Adolphus College grad Harrison moved into an Uptown Minneapolis apartment, they noticed it looked…boring. The walls were bare. They both had done woodworking with their fathers, so they took a stab at making their own art. After successfully producing and selling at the Let's Play Hockey Expo, Uptown Woodworks was born. The Minneapolis and Saint Paul skylines made by these 20-somethings fill a room.

$250

www.uptownwoodworks.com

2. CUSTOMIZED CLOCK BY OH DIER

Oh Dier started when architect William gave his wife, Katie, a handmade present made from architectural samples. The duo produces home decor, products for entertaining, as well as kids' toys. The Saint Paul-based company has gone on to work with Target, Aveda, and was featured in Food Network Magazine. I'm obsessed with their customizable walnut wood clocks.

Starting at $85

www.ohdier.com

3. STATE FAIR POSTER BY HAGEN AND OATS

Anna and her sister, Nikki, are the powerhouse women who make up Hagen and Oats. Beyond their fantastic line of "stainbow" products—stained in the colors of the rainbow flag— the two are creating other Minnesota-centric items. If you know someone obsessed with the State Fair, the duo collaborated with an illustrator to capture the Great Minnesota Get Together in one piece so those deep-fried feelings can be embraced year-round.

$75-125

www.hagenandoats.com

4. GROWTH CHART BY WOOD FROM THE HOOD

Typically, most trees cut down around the metro are sent to landfills, turned into mulch, or burned. Wood From the Hood, based in Minneapolis, is taking wood from the Twin Cities to create cribbage boards, tablet holders, and beer flight paddles. They even track the zip code where the tree was from. Their wood growth charts, which go all the way to 6'4", would be perfect in the bedroom of a niece or nephew.

$55-66

www.woodfromthehood.com

5. SALAD SERVERS AT THE FOUNDRY HOME GOODS

The Foundry Home Goods in the North Loop neighborhood of Minneapolis is like walking into an issue of Martha Stewart Living. The charm level is through the roof. Their partnership with a fair trade program helping Kenyan artisans earn appropriate wages means you have access to stunning olivewood salad servers featuring embellished bone handles.

$36

www.thefoundryhomegoods.com

6. CUTTING BOARD BY EPICUREAN

The sole Wisconsin-based company on this list is Epicurean. Their cutting boards were recommended to me by a professional food stylist, and the celebrity chefs she works with swear by them. The wood composite boards are dishwasher safe, too.

$12.99-37.99

www.epicureancs.com

Unique Gift Ideas Made of Wood

Instead of giving an "okay" gift this holiday season, give them something "oak-y."
Alright, the puns are done.
These Minnesota- and Wisconsin-based businesses are creating or sourcing special gifts that'll last longer than the popsocket or fidget spinner you were planning to purchase.

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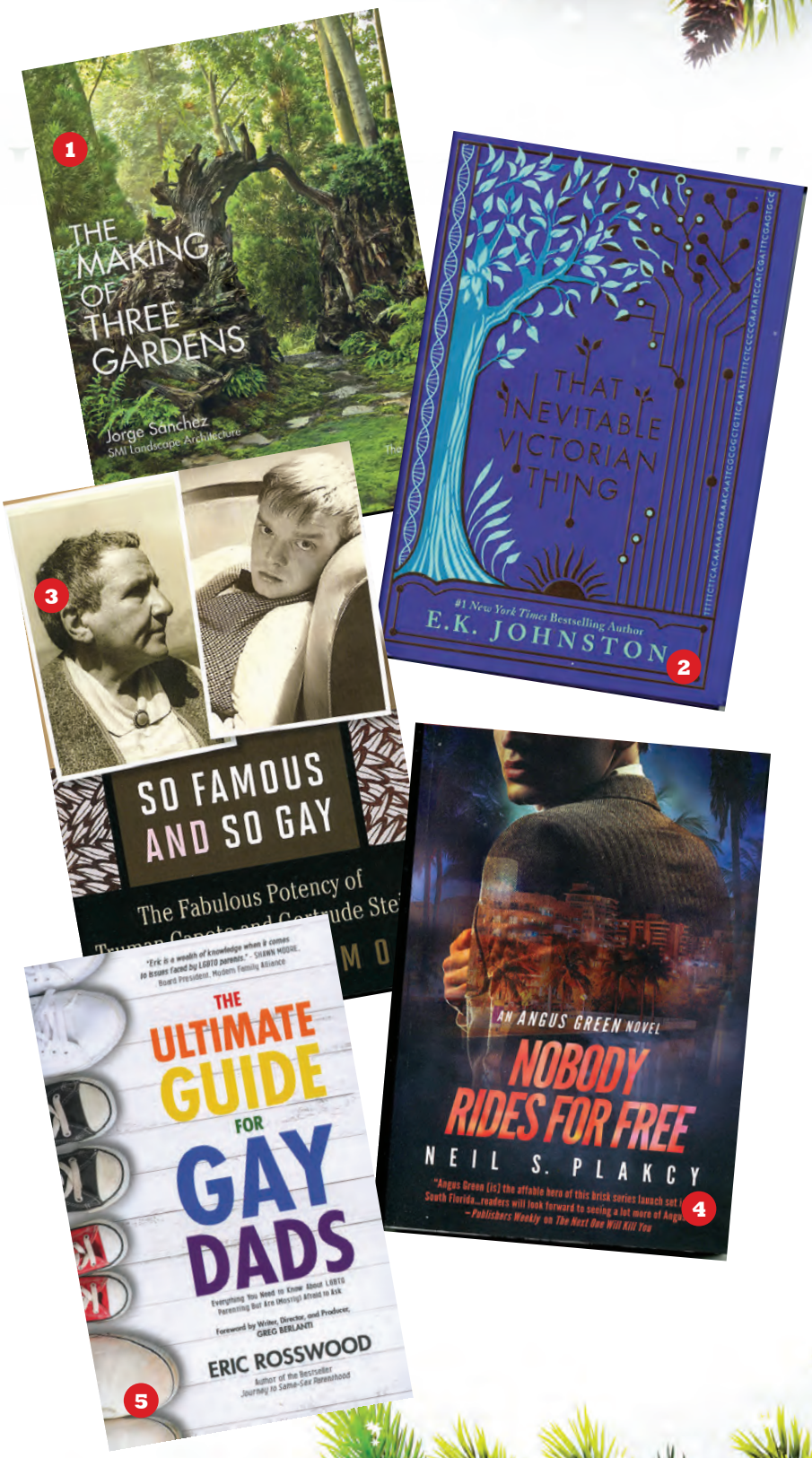
[by E.B. Boatner]

Books



1. THE MAKING OF THREE GARDENS

Sánchez, as principle partner of SMI Landscape Architecture, known for its estate master-planning and work with private clients, here showcases in meticulous detail three private gardens in Florida and New York. The sumptuous photographs illustrate the firm's philosophy of a "botanical garden" approach, the author's narrative of the planning and detail involved is married to the gorgeous photographs of the final results.

Jorge Sánchez, Photos Andre Baranowski (et al.)
Merrell, $70

2. THAT INEVITABLE VICTORIAN THING

Three young people meet at a debut ceremony in Toronto, Canada. One has a life-problem yet unknown, another has gotten himself into a deadly jam, and the third, incognito, is Victoria-Margaret, Crown Princess of the Empire, direct descendent of Victoria I, planning to have one incognito summer of freedom before assuming her place in the realm. Johnston deftly maneuvers her players in this alternate-future tale where Britannia held fast, forging marriage alliances through genetic matchmaking via the all-powerful Computer. A YA novel that will hold the interest of adults as well.

E. K. Johnston
Dutton Books, $17.99

3. SO FAMOUS AND SO GAY: THE FABULOUS POTENCY OF TRUMAN CAPOTE AD GERTRUDE STEIN

In brief, author Solomon suggests the ingredients present in each of their lives that created the "fabulous potency" that propelled Stein and Capote into celebrity, while other gays in the public eye were censored. Stein was not only gay, but female and Jewish. The centerfold of photographs are not merely illustrative, but reinforce Solomon's arguments by being presented in specific contexts, i.e., the young, lounging Capote by Manet's *Olympia* (1865) and Theda Bara in *Cleopatra* (1917). Scholarly and deeply examined.

Jeff Solomon
University of Minnesota Press, $27

4. NOBODY RIDES FOR FREE: AN ANGUS GREEN NOVEL

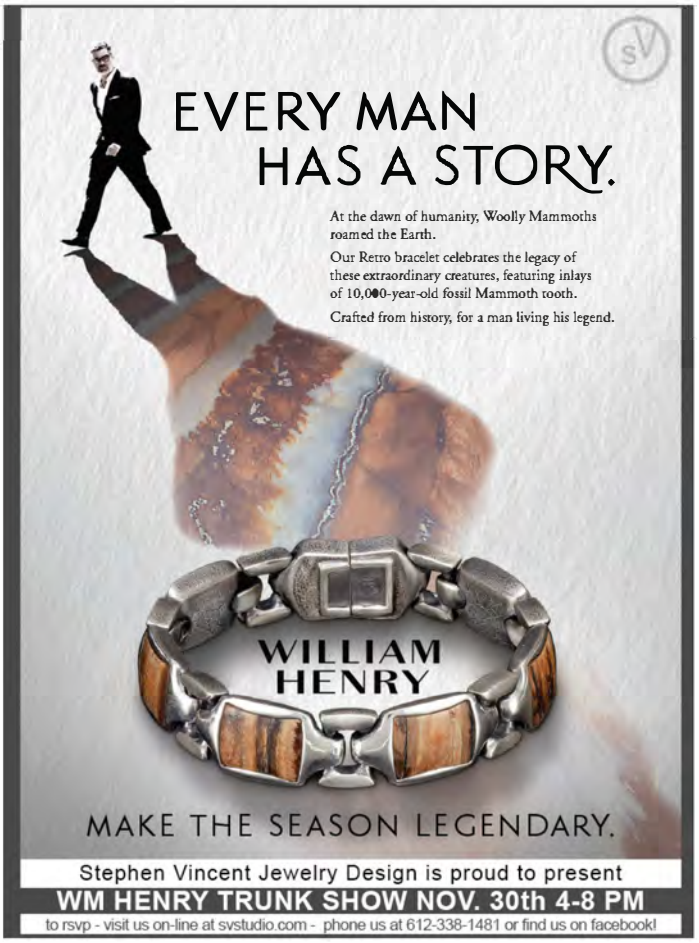
The sequel to *The Next One Will Kill You*, which left newly minted FBI Special Agent Angus Green wounded and sidelined to desk patrol. But upon discovering a gay youngster being abused by a pornographer in his own neighborhood, he's back in the fray, searching through the seamy Florida underbelly encountering not just porno filmmakers, but big-time Russian money laundering, sleazy real estate deals and murder. A high octane mix.

Neil S. Plakcy
Diversion Books, $14.99

5. THE ULTIMATE GUIDE FOR GAY DADS

Gay dad Rosewood has written a remarkable, small handbook that succinctly, with wit and clarity, covers what seems to be every facet of creating and raising a baby. From naming and who's on the birth certificate to dealing with Mother's Day to helping a growing daughter buy a bra or sanitary products. He stresses options, doesn't preach, and includes other dads and their solutions. Best of all, is the assurance that you're not alone.

Eric Rosewood
Parallax Press, $16.95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[by E.B. Boatner]

Books

6. THE INHERITANCE OF SHAME: A MEMOIR

Growing up in Canada with a mother who had escaped a communist concentration camp and a father who had been raised an orphan in post-WWII, young Peter grew up in a house of secrets. He too, had a secret, one that saw him imprisoned for six years in a cult-like conversion therapy home in British Columbia. He tells his story clearly, forthrightly, as he draws on his inner reserves to survive.

Peter Gajdics
Brown Paper Press, $17.99

7. CRAZY LIKE A FOX

Back in 1954, member of the Jefferson Hunt and noted womanizer Wesley "Weevil" Carruthers disappeared—assumed deceased. Now, his youthful, handsome ghost has reappeared, sent a selfie video and stolen his old hunting horn from the Museum of Hounds and Hunting. "Sister" Arnold, mainstay of Brown's foxhunting series, sets out to track him down. Murder, romance, foxes, hounds, and messy human humans feature. An intriguing plot, with no foxes harmed or killed in the solving.

Rita Mae Brown
Ballantine Books, $27

8. EITHER WAY: STORY OF A GAY KID

Protagonist Cael ("From day one I knew there was something different about me") searches to find out who he really is. There are three stories woven together in this graphic novel: Cael's coming-out, a civil rights lesson, and an historical example of a gay man in the military. The gently persistent theme throughout the threads is, "It's OK to be gay. Or not. Either way, it's OK."

Sandra Levins; Ill. by Evan Cook
Magination Press, $17.95

9. COOKED TO DEATH: LYING ON A PLATE (VOL II)

A crime to suit every palate, each of the 15 gourmet mysteries is followed by a tasty recipe. Eclectic gustatory tales flow freely from the pens (computers) of authors Colin Wilson, Susan Koeford, Lori L. Lake, Catherine Buchholz, Marilyn Rausch, et al. Read straight through these food-centric tales, or be a greedy kid; start with Dessert and work back to the Appetizers. Finish off (literally) with the Raspberry Arsenic Swirl Cupcakes.

Ed. Rhonda Gilliland
Wise Ink, $17.95

10. SUBTLE ENERGY TECHNIQUES

Local author Dale offers ways to "live an enlightened life on a higher vibration," by transforming spiritually, physically, and psychologically using one's own internal energies. President of Life System Services, Dale here touches on journeying—practiced for millennia by shamans—chakras, trauma recovery, her own Spirit-to-Spirit technique, and Healing Streams of Grace as means to manifest, ground, and protect personal energy using your own powers.

Cyndi Dale
Llewellyn Publications, $14.99

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HOLIDAY *Gift Guide*

[by Kassidy Tarala]

Pets

There's always at least one person on our shopping lists that makes our heads spin. What do I get them? What do they like? Do they already have this? These are some questions that you might find popping into your head as you shop for that new friend, cousin, or in-law that turns your holiday shopping list into a puzzle. Despite the stress of trying to find the perfect gift for everyone on our lists, it's important we don't neglect to pick out a gift for arguably the most important kind of friends: the furry ones.

While you're running around from store to store trying to find the perfect gift for your hard-to-shop-for friend, cousin, in-law, etc., make sure you take a moment to think of the one on your list who will love you unconditionally regardless of the gift you get them: your pet. Check out this list of gifts for every pet in your life:

1. PERSONALIZED PET ORNAMENT

Show your dog some extra love on the Christmas tree this year with this personalized ornament. Display your canine friend's name in this uniquely designed dog bone that is classy and simple. Also, the color of the wire, both in the bone and in the name, can be chosen from a wide variety of colors.

$16

On Etsy: FoxblossomCo

2. CHRISTMAS DOG TREAT GIFT BASKET

Humans aren't the only ones who love gift basket of baked goods for the holidays. Get your pup this basket of all natural dog treats in fun holiday shapes like gingerbread people, dog bones, and hearts. Also, all gift boxes can be personalized to display a message and your dog's name.

$28

On Etsy: TreatWorthyPet

3. ELF PET PAJAMAS

Whether you're a big fan of Elf the movie or you just love a well-dressed pet, you'll want to get these pajamas for your pet. Available for both cats and dogs, these elf pajamas are festive yet comfortable. Everyone loves to spend the holidays lounging around in their coziest pajamas, so why shouldn't our furry friends do the same?

$10

www.target.com

4. PET HOLIDAY COOKIES

I don't know about you, but my favorite part of the holiday season is the abundance of holiday-themed sweets that seem to appear everywhere I go. If you have a pet that likes to stroll around the kitchen and soak in the scrumptious smells, this is the gift for them. Share the love for holiday treats with your furry friend with this pet holiday cookies assortment.

$8

www.petsmart.com

5. DR. SEUSS GRINCH TEASER TOY

You're a mean one, Mr. Grinch. Entertain your cat for hours with this Dr. Seuss Grinch teaser toy that will both get them in the holiday spirit and get on their very last nerve. Your cat will love clawing at this fun themed toy possibly even more than the Grinch hates, well, everything.

$4

www.petco.com

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4

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[by Kassidy Tarala]

Sports and Fitness

With the towers of cookies, platters of honey ham, and mounds of mashed potatoes, it can be easy for our health to be the last thing on our minds during the holiday season. Share the gift of healthy living with your friends and family this year with one of these sports and fitness items.

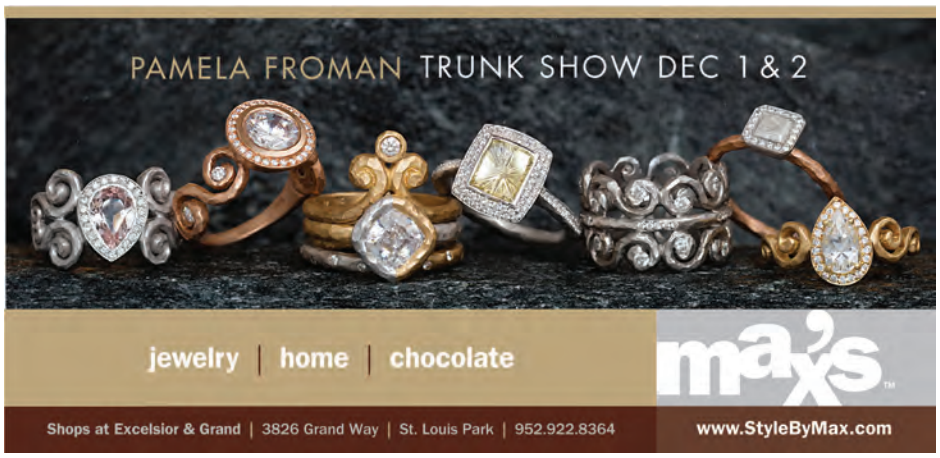
1. ADIDAS BY STELLA MCCARTNEY GYM BAG
This is a must for any fashion-forward gym fanatic on your shopping list. The simple black and white coloring makes this bag as classy as it is convenient. It's large enough to fit a pair of shoes at the bottom with a ventilated mesh upper compartment for clothing and other gym necessities.
$150
www.carbon38.com

2. BASEBALL STADIUM BLUEPRINTS
If you know a baseball lover who also enjoys vintage artwork, this is just the gift for them. Spread the holiday cheer with the perfect gift for every baseball fan, these baseball stadium blueprints. Available for every MLB baseball stadium, these blueprints are printed on 100% recycled paper and framed.
$185
www.uncommongoods.com

3. COMBO YOGA MAT
Say "namaste" this holiday season and give the gift of yoga to a friend or family member. The combo yoga mat from Yoga Design Lab is a combination of a traditional yoga mat and a towel. No more slipping around on the mat or having to remember a towel. Now, it's all in one, and it's available in a variety of designs.
$68
www.yogadesignlab.com

4. NHL STANLEY CUP AIR-POP POPCORN MAKER
Every hockey game unarguably calls for some hot, buttery popcorn. Give the hockey lover in your life the gift of both a hockey memento and a salty snack. With the Stanley Cup air-pop popcorn maker, you can celebrate NHL and pop your own popcorn.
$70
www.bedbathandbeyond.com

5. YAKTRAX CHAINS
Running can be a sport, a hobby, or a stress reliever for many, so why give that up during the icy Minnesota winter months? With Yaktrax chains, the runner on your shopping list can easily run through snow and ice while maintaining balance. The chains allow the runner to gain traction and avoid slipping on icy surfaces.
$25
www.yaktrax.implus.com



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Members of Quorum enjoy several benefits, including access to a plethora of networking events and signature event discounts, business directory listing and event-based advertising opportunities, Workplace Alliance event participation, and the ability to find business at the national level via certification with the NGLCC. For more information, visit www.twincitiesquorum.com/membership.

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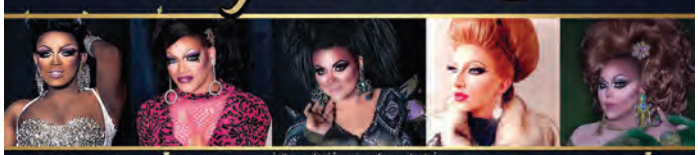
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[by Kassidy Tarala]

Fashion

Everyone has a fashionista in their life, and if you don't, chances are it's you. Whether you're shopping for your stylish sibling, posh partner, or perhaps even yourself—we all deserve to treat ourselves—this list of fashion-forward items will make your holiday shopping a lot easier.

1. LOVE IS LOVE TEE
When we see the initials "LV," we usually think of Louis Vuitton's elegant jewelry, unique designs, and famous handbags. Help the fashionista on your list celebrate the LGBT community with a new spin on "LV." This Love is Love t-shirt comes in a variety of colors, so buy one or buy them all!
$25
On Etsy: HomoKind

2. MINIMAL TRENCH COAT
From 69 Worldwide, this item is from a gender neutral clothing brand made in Los Angeles, CA. All products are gender neutral and high quality. This trench coat is available in dusty rose, and its length and flowing fabric make for a coat that is both stylish and cozy.
$450
www.sixty-nine.us

3. SMELLS LIKE QUEEN SPIRIT T-SHIRT
Whether you're celebrating pride, coming out, marriage equality, or you just want to look like royalty while being yourself, this shirt is for you. From Look Human, this t-shirt is from the LGBT collection and is perfect for any pride celebration.
$18-24
www.lookhuman.com

4. MO' HOMO T-SHIRT
Revel and Riot is known for its LGBT clothing lines and funky graphics; this shirt is a combination of the two. This Mo' Homo shirt makes a bold statement in a clean, retro pattern. Also available in long sleeve and sweatshirt.
$29
store.revelriot.com

5. TASSEL HOOP EARRINGS
Target has been adding to its gender neutral lines, especially now that the holidays are coming closer. Shop Target's gender neutral jewelry for that special someone on your list. The tassel hoop earrings by BaubleBar are available in gray, berry, and teal and will surely steal the spotlight this holiday.
$13
www.target.com

6. SEVEN CROWNS TEE
Seven Even is an LGBT company with a wide array of products from hats and accessories to phone cases and mugs. Show your pride for who you love and support this company with their seven crowns tee. Fashionable and purposeful, this will be a must-have on your shopping list.
$35
www.sevenevenclothing.com

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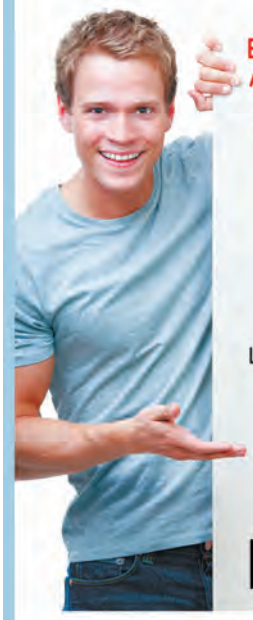

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[by Kassidy Tarala]

Children and Family

I remember the excitement I used to get during the holidays. As a kid, this was the most important time of the year. I would spend hours flipping through the latest toy catalogs, bookmarking nearly every page. American Girl doll accessories, books, board games: you name it, it was undoubtedly on my list.

The holidays are an exciting time for the kiddos, but this wouldn't be possible without the effort made by the adults. Make the shopping process as careless and fun for yourself as tearing through the sea of presents is for the young ones with this list of gifts for children and families.

1. JETSON BEAM ELECTRIC SCOOTER

Target is known for openly supporting the rainbow community with its products, advertisements, and political statements, so they're already a fan favorite for holiday gifts. With toys like the Jetson Beam electric scooter, they'll be a favorite among the kiddos, too. Available in blue and black, this scooter is height adjustable and includes an LED light.

$300

www.target.com

2. AMERICAN GIRL DOLL GABRIELA

If a kiddo on your list is interested in the wide world of American Girl, Gabriela might be the one for you. As the Girl of the Year, Gabriela comes with an inspiring story. Although she struggles with a stutter and bullies at school, she stands up for herself and others while doing what she does best: being herself.

$115

www.americangirl.com

3. IN OUR MOTHERS' HOUSE

By Patricia Polacco, this book tells the story of Marmee and Meema, a lesbian couple, and their three adopted children. The story is told from the perspective of their oldest child who reflects on her adoption as well as the adoptions of her two younger siblings. Despite some disapproving neighbors, family and friends of Marmee and Meema are supportive and open-minded: a lesson for all kids.

$18

www.barnesandnoble.com

4. BOYS WILL BE GOOD HUMANS TEE

Free to be Kids is a clothing company that delivers powerful, inspirational messages on its clothing. This "boys will be good humans" shirt challenges the "boys will be boys" saying that is so commonly used. Get it for the kiddo on your list who enjoys looking good and doing it for a good cause.

$18

www.freetobekids.com

5. KING AND KING

This book by Linda de Haan tells the story of a young prince who declares to the queen that he has never taken much of a liking to princesses. Take your kids along on his journey as he finds love at first sight with another prince. The two have a royal wedding and become king and king, which is something we can all celebrate.

$15

www.amazon.com

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[by Kassidy Tarala]

Seniors

The holidays are the best time of the year for kids...of all ages, that is. You don't have to have a wish list comprised of toys, dolls, and games to get into the holiday spirit. Whether you're a senior yourself or you're shopping for another adult, you'll want to add these items to your list.

1. VINTAGE GAY RIGHTS BUTTON

For the history buff on your list, this historical button will surely make their holidays jolly. From the 1970s, this NGIF comes from California before the rainbow flag was associated with gay rights. Full of history and full of pride.

$10

On Etsy: SecondSymphony

2. LGBT MELTED CRAYON ART

This gift is perfect for a senior gay couple or your own significant other. Because this piece is reminiscent of wedding gifts, it can rekindle the spark that the two lovebirds felt on their wedding day, no matter how long ago that might have been. The bright colors are sure to add cheer to any space.

$100

On Etsy: FemByDesign

3. BECOMING A MAN: HALF A LIFE STORY

In this memoir, Paul Monette reflects on his life growing up in the 1950s, coming to the realization that he was gay, and dealing with the backlash of coming out to his friends and family in their small New England town. Historical and inspirational, this book tells the story many have lived but few have written about.

$13

www.barnesandnoble.com

4. STONEWALL: BREAKING OUT IN THE FIGHT FOR GAY RIGHTS

This book is great for anyone particularly interested in gay rights, the history of the Stonewall riot, or perhaps someone who participated in them firsthand. Capturing the voices of those who participated in these New York history, this book allows you to take a walk through history to examine where the gay rights movement was and where it's going now.

$10

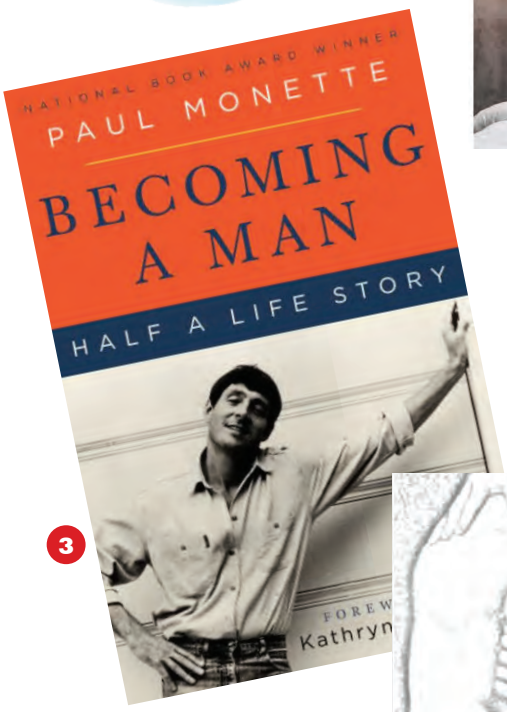
www.amazon.com

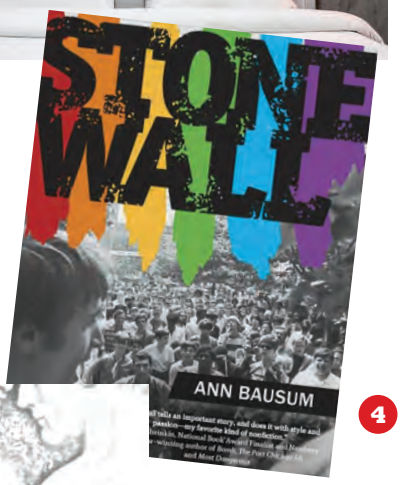
5. LGBT ADULT COLORING BOOK

Coloring isn't just for the kiddos anymore. Adult coloring books are becoming more and more popular for their therapeutic effects, and this LGBT coloring book will be perfect for any senior in your life looking for some downtime. All you need are some colored pencils or markers, and your colorful therapy session awaits.

$10

www.amazon.com





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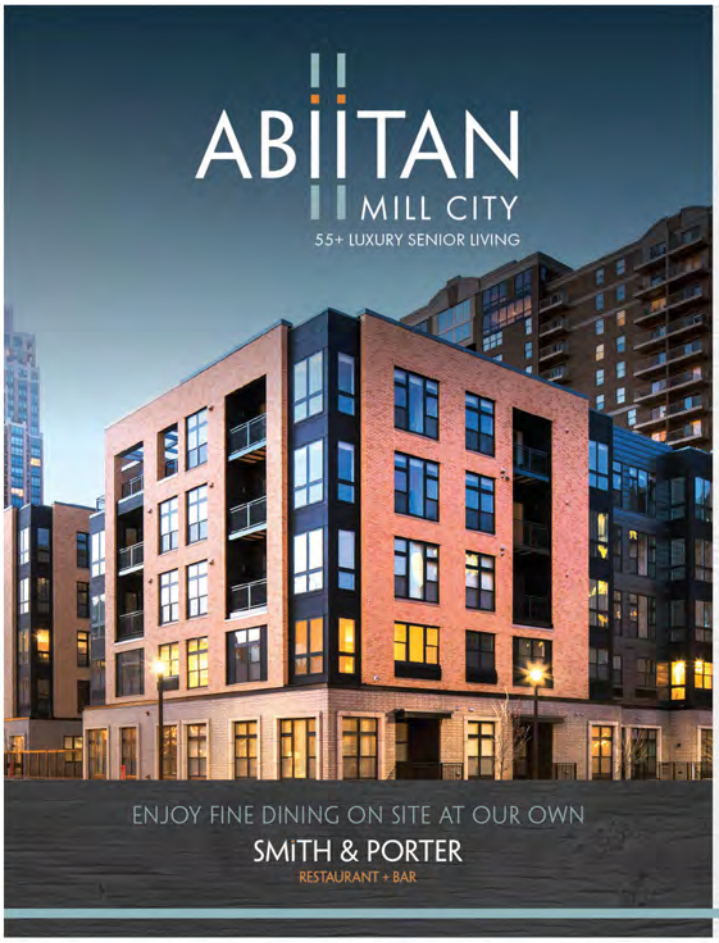

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[by Randy Stern]

Ride Review

1. CAR WASH & DETAILING ITEMS

This is something you can do yourself. All you need is a hose, a bucket, and plenty of great car wash and finishing items that make your ride sparkle and shine. Unlike a car wash, doing all of this yourself puts you in control of how you want the car, truck, or SUV to look. Plus, it prevents someplace else from damaging your vehicle—such as a car wash. There is no particular brand we recommend, because they all do a great job at their particular task. Ask an expert on what they use for their vehicle. Or, email Randy…

Items range from $1.99 and up. Available at auto parts stores and larger retailers with an automotive section.

2. TIRE PRESSURE GAUGE

In the winter, you will see a particular warning light pop up. It is an amber colored one with a profile of a tire and an exclamation point. Although the owner's manual states that you cannot operate the vehicle when the light pops on, you can see the condition of the tire and check the tire pressure. It is a simple instrument to use to plug into the valve stem of the tire to see how much is inside the tire. If you're short, at least you know how much to pump inside your tires. Make sure you read the label inside of the door frame for specified tire pressures. Tire pressure gauges are available in various types. Choose one you won't lose and can read easily.

Tire pressure gauges range from $.79 and up. Available at auto parts stores and larger retailers with an automotive section.

3. MOTOR OIL

Many vehicles will experience oil loss due to driving through the years. No problem! You could always check the oil dipstick to see what the level is. If you're short a quart, pour some in! If you actually do oil changes, get the exact amount the engine requires for optimal running—at the specified weight per your owner's manual. Having at least a quart of oil will help keep your vehicle running through the years.

Quarts range from $3.50 and up. Five-quart jugs range from $19.99 and up. Available at auto parts stores and larger retailers with an automotive section.

4. GASOLINE GIFT CARDS OR PREPAID CARDS

Are you loyal to a particular brand of gasoline? Or do you have a loyalty program you use more than others for pumping gas into your vehicle? You can make things easier by getting a gift card from your favorite brand of gasoline. It could be a hedge against rising fuel prices, since you could also use your loyalty program that offers discounts at the pump. It is also an easy reminder to get gas at your favorite station when you run low. Give the gift of fuel to a family member or friend, that will help them through the holiday travel season.

Cards usually run a minimum of $20.00 to load up. Available at various gasoline stations.

5. TUNE-UPS AND SEASONAL MAINTENANCE

You don't have to do everything yourself! There are some things that a trusted shop or mechanic can do for you. The keys to a good mechanic are communication, knowledge, and understanding your vehicle and its idiosyncrasies. Once you connect with your mechanic, make an appointment. Not all mechanics can service your vehicle, but there are many who can.

Rates vary per location and service performed. See our advertisers to inquire about rates and the kind of services they offer.

6. SWAG & MERCH

Do you love your vehicle? No, seriously, do you really love your vehicle? If you love your vehicle, then show your pride in your ownership! Most dealerships offer apparel items that you can wear at car meets or dinners with the club. Otherwise, you can find these items online through the brand's website. And, not just wearable items! You can outfit your home, workplace, or get an umbrella from your favorite brand of automobile.

Prices vary depending on item. See your local dealer's parts department for assistance or search through the internet. We recommend getting ones that are backed by the manufacturer or brand.

This year, I had the privilege of seeing a lot of products that would be useful for any vehicle owner. If you like to do things yourself, these gift items are just for you…

1

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[by Steve Lenius]

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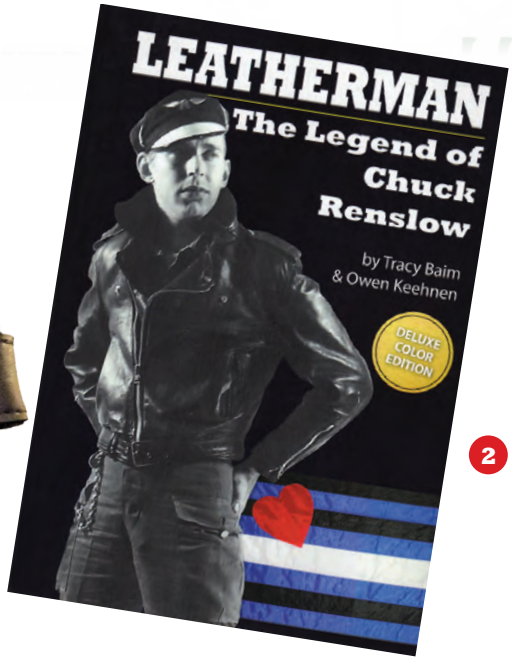

HOLIDAY *Gift Guide*

[by Steve Lenius]

7

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7. GOLD LEATHER BIKER JACKET BAG
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Bondesque, 708 W Lake St. Minneapolis
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8. CUSTOM FIT CONDOMS
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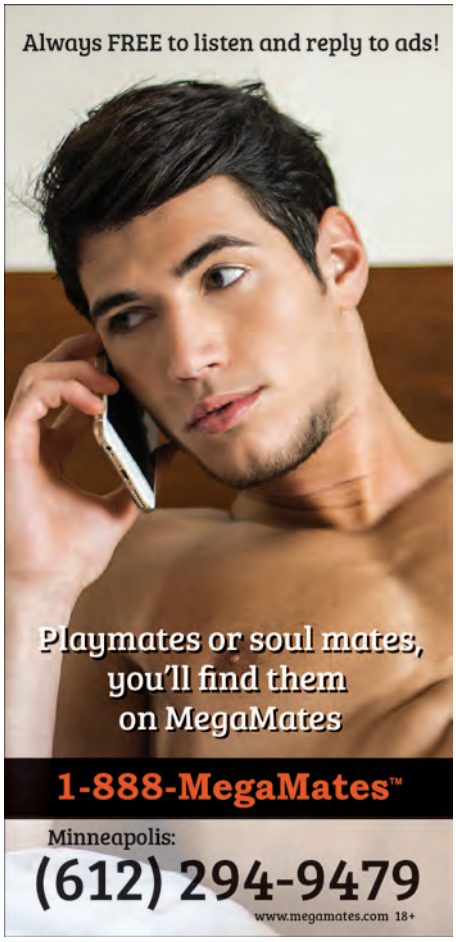

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St. Paul, MN 55114
(651) 645-2948
www.namihelps.org

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Reddoorclinic.org

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chorus@tcgmc.org
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www.outfront.org

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